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Bridge 3-156 On SR 1 Over Indian River Inlet
Sussex County, Delaware

FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/
NATIONWIDE SECTION 4(f) EVALUATION

Submitted Pursuant To 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C) and
CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1500 et seq.) by the

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

AND

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The project involves the replacement of Bridge 3-156, which carries State Route 1 (SR 1) over the Indian River Inlet. SR 1 is the primary north-south highway in coastal Sussex County. Bridge 3-156 has been determined structurally deficient. The proposed action attempts to solve the transportation problem while considering environmental and community concerns in the study area. The land surrounding the bridge is part of the Delaware Seashore State Park. The area immediately surrounding the bridge includes tidal wetlands, dune habitat, and park infrastructure facilities that support this heavily used passive recreational areas.

The selected alternative for the project is Alternative 4B-2, which provides for a new westerly crossing of the Indian River Inlet (30 feet west of the existing bridge) with reconstructed approach roadways that also accommodate reconfigured/improved park access roads (Single Point park access road north of the inlet and a U-road park access configuration south of the inlet). This selected alternative was selected because of its ability to satisfy the projects purpose and need (replacing the Indian River Inlet Bridge with a structure that spans the existing Inlet), maintaining SR 1 as the primary Hurricane Emergency Access Route for the coastal area, improving safety and access to the park users, and minimizing unavoidable impacts to the surrounding human, natural heritage, and parkland which are within and adjacent to the proposed project area.

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